

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2003. Claims 23-44 were pending in the application. Claims 45-66 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 45-66 are submitted for reconsideration at this time. Favorable reconsideration of claims 45-66 is respectfully solicited.

A. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Cancelled claims 23-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 over Hutchins US Pat No. 5,208,897, and Hutchins in combination with Lucas and Gould US Pat No. 5,794,189. New claims 45-46 recite limitations which distinguish the invention from the cited prior art.

The invention claimed in claims 45, 55 and 65 includes directly converting a digital representation of speech into ASCII characters. These ASCII characters are grouped into words based on the ASCII space between the grouped letters. Syllables of the digital representation of the speech are determined and used to confirm that the grouped ASCII characters is correct using syllable tables to improve accuracy.

Hutchins discloses a system for speech recognition based on sub-syllable spelling. Hutchins' voice recognition is solely based on phonetics. In Hutchins sub-syllables are determined based on frames that is distinguished by the interval of vocoids, changing vocoids, frication and silence. Sub-syllable symbols are output that characterizes major and minor phonetic attributes for the sub-syllables. The sequences of sub-syllables symbols are mapped into syllables, and the sequences of syllables symbols into words, based on the predetermined lookup tables. Hutchins fails to disclose directly converting a digital representation of speech into ASCII characters or grouping the ASCII characters into words. Thus, Hutchins fails to disclose each limitation suggest all of the claimed elements recited in claims 45, 55, and 65.

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Furthermore, the deficiencies identified in Hutchins above, are not remedied by Gould or Lucas. Thus, Hutchins in combination with Gould and Lucas fails to teach alone or in combination the limitation recited in claims 45, 55 and 65.

Claims 46-54, 56-64 and 66 depend from claim 45, 55 and 65 respectively. Applicant submits that these claims are not taught or suggested for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 45, 55 and 65.

B. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is allowable over the references relied upon in the Office Action. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (25241.0002).

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Respectfully Submitted,
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